

CD2000--90/91

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MUSIC
2000-2001 Season

Year of the Piano Celebration Series

WILLIAM AIDE



Where Great Music Meets Great Minds

Tuesday, October 31, 2000, 8 p.m.
Walter Hall

Year of the Piano Celebration Series

Presents

WILLIAM AIDE, PIANO

Performing on the new Edith McConica Steinway

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Drei Intermezzi, Op. 117

E flat major

*Sleep softly, my child, sleep softly and well;
it moves me to see you cry*

B flat minor

C sharp minor

Franz Liszt
(1811-1886)

Réminiscences de Norma

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Feuilles mortes (Préludes II)

La fille aux cheveux de lin (Préludes I)

Reflets dans l'eau (Images I)

INTERMISSION

Frederic Chopin
(1810-1849)

Sonata in B minor, Op. 58

Allegro maestoso

Scherzo: molto vivace

Largo

Finale: presto non tanto

The Year of the Piano Celebration Series is generously sponsored by
the Remenyi House of Music.

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Meet the Artist

Pianist **WILLIAM AIDE** received his musical degrees from the University of Toronto and the Juilliard School. In 1962 he won first prize in the CBC Talent Festival and the Canada Council Award for Young Performing Artists. Mr. Aide is a distinguished solo recitalist, chamber musician and accompanist and has collaborated with such conductors as Walter Susskind, Charles Dutoit, Mario Bernardi, Victor Feldbrill, Raffi Armenian, Arthur Fiedler and Andrew Davis. Glenn Gould referred to him as "one of the most inventive and imaginative pianistic talents of our time."

Mr. Aide has recorded the Chopin Twenty-Four Etudes, the Brahms Cello Sonatas with Ofra Harnoy, and has performed the complete Suzuki method repertoire on a five compact disc set. The BBC and CBC have recorded his performances and he has given concerts in New York City, the former Soviet Union, Chicago, San Francisco and throughout Canada. In February 1993 and November 1995, Professor Aide served as Artist-in-Residence at the Aix-en-Provence Conservatory. A glowing review

stated that "one could detect two major strengths from his playing: the extreme quality of his sonority and the sovereign mastery of musical time."

Recent engagements include acclaimed performances at the American Liszt Society conferences in Hamilton, and a song recital with mezzo soprano Catherine Robbin. His most recent recording of Canadian chamber music features works by Talivaldis Kenins (Centrediscs).

His book, *Starting from Porcupine* (Oberon Press), was shortlisted for the Edna Stabler Award for creative non-fiction. In June of 2000 he participated in the first jury of the Esther Honens Competition.

A CBC compact disc recording of his 1978 live recording with Lois Marshall of three Schumann song cycles was issued in August 2000.

A university teacher of 37 years experience, Mr. Aide came to the Faculty of Music in 1978. He currently serves as the Head of the Keyboard Division.

Programme Notes

by William Aide

Of all Brahms' late works, this trilogy of sorrows is among his most deeply felt. Taking the Scottish epigraph as a cue, one might think of the B flat minor and the C sharp minor as Brahms' Kindertotenlieder.

The *Norma Fantasy* is a monster of a piece, designed to burn pianists' hands off at the wrist. It is a compendium of choral and vocal numbers from the first and last parts of the opera. Perhaps Liszt omitted

the celebrated "Casta Diva" aria in order to concentrate on the blazing grandeur and the theatrical intensity of this supreme bel canto masterpiece.

In place of notes on Debussy and Chopin, I offer these two excerpts from my long poem in 24 sections, entitled *Sea Voyage with Pigs*. The poem deals with Chopin's Preludes, Op. 28, the composer in Majorca and the intimates that surrounded him:

Prelude in F sharp major - Chopin's Son

For his birthday, a piano without hammers;
for his second, an orchestra "lit from behind".
He was born to listen.

He will stage mockeries, he will render
faunic afternoons from a nocturne
like this one.

He will know my foreignness. In a postcard
from Spain or the muted
clamour of a gamelan
he will catch my radical echo.

My nuance will be his genuflection;
he will murmur devotions between two harmonies
and backslide as I do; we will share
pedalled acoustic mysteries,
his preludes, their pagan invocations.

I will leave him my only piano -
its caverns, seas, lairs
he will explore -

My son will reverence me in forewords;
he will retune the world's tympanum.
The sensuous summer heat will hear what I have taught him.

Chopin Leaving Majorca

Such yearnings for the heart's assurance-
it will not come.
Demanding cries for the answer to Job -
it will not come.

On his island of red earth, the man
stares at the majestic sea,
and turning away
lifts from his broken chest
his scripture of contingencies.
They fall on the quickening page
into patterns.

He listens again to what he was sent for.

THE YEAR OF THE PIANO CELEBRATION



*Welcome to the Year of the Piano Celebration
Series at the Faculty of Music.*

*We are very proud to present five outstanding
pianists, William Aide, Jim McNeely*, Anton
Kuerti*, Marc-André Hamelin and Jane Coop*,
to celebrate two transforming gifts to the area of
piano performance at the University of Toronto:
the R.E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance and
the Edith McConica Steinway.*

*The R.E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance is
made possible by a gift of \$1 million from the
Edwards Charitable Foundation matched by the
University of Toronto. The initial holder of the R.E.
Edwards Chair is Professor William Aide. The
beautiful new Steinway concert grand piano in
Walter Hall is a gift from Dr. James McConica, in
memory of his mother Edith, a gifted pianist and
teacher.*



**denotes Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitors in Music for 2000-2001*

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The Faculty of Music Campaign continues to grow in momentum and spirit. Since May 1, 1995, numerous academic priorities funded through the Campaign have enhanced all aspects of the education we provide to our talented students. We would like to thank all who have made significant contributions of \$5,000 and greater to our Campaign - generous donors, tireless volunteers and longtime supporters.

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2000-2001

*Where Great
Music Meets
Great Minds*

The Faculty of Music proudly presents

Jim McNeely, piano

2000-2001 WILMA AND CLIFFORD SMITH VISITOR IN MUSIC
Grammy-nominated pianist/composer/arranger has worked
extensively with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and the Carnegie
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With U of T Jazz Orchestras

Wednesday, November 8, 8:30 p.m. Walter Hall
Tickets: \$12/6

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In recital with Don Thompson, bass

Thursday, November 9, 8 p.m. Walter Hall
Tickets: \$20/10

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Upcoming Piano Series Concert

Anton Kuerti

2000-2001 WILMA AND CLIFFORD SMITH VISITOR IN MUSIC
"One of the truly great pianists this century" --CD Review, London

Friday, November 24, 8 p.m. Walter Hall

Beethoven: Six Bagatelles, Op. 126

Schumann: Five Novelettes from Op. 21

Schubert: Sonata in A Major, D.959

Tickets: \$20/10

Box Office: 416-978-3744

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House of Music

A chair-raising performance

Wednesday November 22, 8 p.m. Walter Hall

Support our student initiative!! Join the Faculty of Music's graduating class in a fundraising concert for GRADitude to be put towards the purchase of ergonomic chairs for use by student performers on stage of MacMillan Theatre and Walter Hall.

Special Appearance

Scott St. John in Bernstein's Serenade

All funds raised through the concert will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

Tickets: \$10

Faculty of Music Box Office: 416-978-3744
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Imagine Perfect Resonance.

A chord is struck, but never fades, sustained forever.



Dr. Arthur Plettner
1904-1999

Arthur Plettner graduated from the Faculty of Music many years ago and now, because of his generosity, is helping students that have come after him. When Dr. Plettner made a note of remembering the Faculty of Music in his Will, he created an endowment fund that will provide enduring financial support to gifted graduate and undergraduate students in financial need wishing to study at the Faculty of Music. Thank you Dr. Plettner.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact the Development Office of the Faculty of Music by calling 946-3145.

